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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Juliann A. Rollé, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

California

Berkeley.—In connection with the annual session of the California High-School Teachers' Association, the Central Section of the Classical Association of the Pacific States held two meetings at Berkeley, on the afternoons of July 18 and 19. There was a good attendance, with representation from all parts of the Pacific Coast.

The following papers were read: "A Roman Poetess," Miss Mary M. Smith; "The Purpose and Significance of the *Res gestae* Divi Augusti," Professor R. Scholz; "The Greeks in Rome," Dr. T. Petersson; "Tempora Mutantur: Quid Faciamus?" Miss Clara E. Bailey; "Sugar-coated Latin," Miss Valeria E. Mixer; "Some Observations of a Secondary Teacher of Latin of Forty Years' Experience in the State," Mr. F. O. Mower; "Sappho," Professor William K. Prentice; "Scenes of Life and Death from the Etruscan Tombs," Professor O. M. Washburn. The last-mentioned paper was illustrated with the stereopticon.

Officers elected for 1917-18 are: Mr. F. O. Mower, president; Dr. W. J. Wilson, vice-president; Miss C. E. Bailey, secretary. Members of the Executive Committee, Miss Pearl M. Small and Miss Grace A. Wood.

Oakland.—On the evening of June sixth the second-year Latin class of the College of the Holy Names presented Professor Schlicher's *Andromeda*. The leading parts were sustained by Alberta Agnew (Cepheus), Grace Foley (Cassiope), Charlotte Johnson (Andromeda), Alma De Luca (Perseus), and Edna Sullivan (Phineus).

The *Andromeda* presents some rather difficult problems, especially for a cast made up entirely of girls. Assignment of parts according to depth and strength of voice, with careful attention to costuming, solved one difficulty very satisfactorily. There is little rapidity of action in the play, and the

speeches are rather lengthy. Moreover, the plight of the unfortunate heroine is one that calls for a play of emotion that is not easy for high-school pupils to appreciate.

To help the audience follow the action, one of the students read from a scroll a summary of each scene before it was presented. Musical numbers interspersed gave opportunity for necessary changes behind the curtain. The stage setting and costuming were highly creditable for a secondary-school play of this character. Among other things, the electric lights were draped in such a way as to represent torches. The horror of Andromeda's position chained to the rock was enhanced by a dim and lurid glow. The enunciation of the actors was slow and distinct—in pleasing contrast to the thoughtless, rattling declamation too often heard under such circumstances. Real acting was apparent here and there. Taken all in all, the play was a most decided success; and much credit is due to Sister Mary Eustolia, under whose direction it was brought out.

Illinois

Harrisburg.—The Vergil class of the Harrisburg Township High School, under the direction of their instructor, Miss Tunison, presented Professor Miller's *Dido* last month in connection with a May fête on the lawn. The play proved very effective in an out-of-door performance. A dance by the same Carthaginian maidens who sang "Wake, Aurora," was added to the court scene.

The class has proven one of the most enthusiastic in the school this year. Interest started with a thesis contest, developing the topics suggested by Dr. Miller in *Classical Journal* (Vol. III, No. 4). The contest was judged on the point system, and each student was ranked in respect to (1) reading and research material, (2) original contributions and observations, (3) charts, maps, and illustrative material, (4) composition and oral delivery. The winning paper, on "Vergil's Art as a Story Teller—a Literary Criticism," was read before the assembled high school and succeeded in interesting every student.

Iowa

Waterloo.—Miss Lina H. Moore, instructor of Latin in the West Waterloo High School, has been active for a number of years in keeping Latin interest alive. Various devices to maintain interest have been employed. Last spring a Roman wedding, with realistic flowing draperies and all other accessories, was staged. A small admittance fee from a goodly and interested audience netted enough to purchase a beautiful statuette of Apollo for the school.

Iowa City.—The Latin department of the Iowa City High School gave a presentation of Miss Paxson's play, *A Roman School*, before the morning assembly recently. The play was given by the boys of the Sophomore and Junior classes, who entered into it with vim and earnestness. The play was coached by Miss Antonio J. Stober, who has charge of the high-school Latin.

The Iowa City High School has been especially fortunate in being able to enjoy and profit by the replicas of Pompeian bronzes recently secured by Professor Eastman for the Latin department of the State University.

Louisiana

The Classical Department of the Louisiana State Teachers' Association, meeting at Alexandria, held a session on Friday, April 13. About fifty were present. The president, Miss Florence R. Kerwin, of Houma, conducted the meeting and led the discussions.

The following program was given: "First-Year Latin," Miss Mary C. Stevens, of Shreveport; "The Sabin Charts," Miss Irene Miller, of Alexandria; "How to Vitalize the Study of Latin," R. W. Winstead, of the State Normal, Natchitoches.

Miss Sabin's charts, loaned for the occasion by Newcomb College, aroused interest.

It is gratifying to note that Louisiana has shown an increase of membership in the Classical Association of the Middle West and South during the past year.

A number of Louisiana schools now begin Latin in the first year of high school, though no credit is given by the state for the fourth year's work. A committee was appointed to draw up a resolution to the state authorities, asking that four units be allowed for Latin work, begun in the first year of high school and including a year of Vergil.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Irene Miller, Alexandria; Vice-President, Miss Betsy Dupré, Lake Charles; Secretary, J. E. Harper, Gueydan.

Minnesota

Central High School, Minneapolis.—On May 17 the Latin Club of Central High, as a culmination to a series of successful programs, provided the entertainment at the regular weekly assembly of the student body. Tableaux depicting fifteen scenes taken from the second *Aeneid* were presented. The program opened with the scene in which Aeneas tells Dido and her subjects assembled within the banquet hall the story of the destruction of Troy. On the stage Dido sat on a throne o'erspread with rich rugs, herself resplendent in gorgeous robes. Reclining on couches so arranged that Dido sat at the apex of the angle of couches were fair maidens, some in rich colors, others in dazzling white. On either side, back of the couches, stood Carthaginian and Trojan soldiers in full armor. Aeneas reclined upon a couch at Dido's left, conspicuous before all, and the smallest boy in the Latin department, as Ascanius, sat at Dido's knee.

Other scenes represented were Cassandra dragged by soldiers, Greeks storming the palace of Priam, the murder of the aged king at the altar by Pyrrhus, Venus staying the arm of Aeneas, who is about to slay Helen, and the last scene in which the "pious" Aeneas bears away on his shoulders his aged father, followed by the rest of his dejected company of Trojans.

There were over forty students in the cast, fifteen principal characters, fifteen daughters of Priam, and twelve soldiers. As there are approximately six hundred members in the department, it was possible to find for the principal characters talent best suited for the posing.

To the two thousand and more students who were unfamiliar with the story, a clear-voiced member read from Conington's translation and told the account himself where the thread of the story was broken by the excerpts. By a signal device between the reader and the boy who operated the curtain the pictures were revealed in unbroken order and within the space of an hour. The generous applause from the student body was gratifying to the club members, who are convinced that the success of their undertaking has made certain their "place in the sun."

Ohio

Columbus.—The May meeting of the Columbus Latin Club was held at the Chittenden Hotel on the nineteenth of May. There were about fifty members present. The following program was given after the luncheon, which was served at noon: "A Glimpse of the Louisville Meeting," Mrs. Clara F. Milligan, North High School; "Gaudeamus Igitur," Latin Club Quartet; "Integer Vitae," Latin Club; "A Pilgrimage to Sirmio, the Home of Lucullus," Dr. Dwight M. Robinson, Ohio Wesleyan University; "America" (Kellogg's translation), Latin Club.

Before adjournment there was a short business meeting. At the suggestion of the president, Miss Alice D. Hare, the club voted to pursue a systematic course of reading for the coming year. A committee, consisting of Miss Harriet R. Kirby, North High; Miss Augusta Connolley, West High; Miss Margaret Campbell, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, was chosen to plan a course of classical reading similar to that of the New York State Reading League.

The officers for the coming year are: President, Mrs. Mary B. Guild, East High; Vice-President, Miss Edith Daniels, Columbus School for Girls; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Edith S. Smith, North High.

Oregon

At a special meeting in Portland, Oregon, of the Classical Association of the Pacific States, in connection with the sessions of the National Education Association, July 11-13, the following program was presented: "The Need to Define Anew the Values of Latin," Milton E. Blanchard, Mission High School, San Francisco; "Classics and the Man of Science," Norman C. Thorne, Lincoln High School, Portland, Oregon; "Classics and the Man of Affairs," W. L. Brewster, Former City Commissioner, Portland, Oregon; "The Continued Tale of the Historical Novel," Frederic S. Dunn, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon; "The Direct Method: Three Years After," A. P. McKinlay, Lincoln High School, Portland, Oregon; "Teachers of Latin," Susan M. Dorsey, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Los Angeles, California; "Exaggeration and Other Elements of Humor in Roman Literature," Frank F. Potter, Washington

State College, Pullman, Washington; "Correlating Latin with History," Leona Larrabee, Lincoln High School, Portland, Oregon.

Virginia

Randolph-Macon Woman's College.—In connection with the installation of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at the Randolph-Macon Woman's College the department of Greek gave an open-air presentation of the *Antigone* of Sophocles which will long be remembered by all who witnessed the performance. The site selected for the play was a natural amphitheater on the campus, from every point of which even the lowest tones of the speakers could be distinctly heard. The play was given in Greek. Mendelssohn's music, with some necessary adaptations, was used for the choral odes. Many of the costumes were dyed for the occasion in order that they might harmonize with the out-of-door coloring. The selection of the cast was unusually happy, and the rendering as a whole was remarkably smooth and even. Translations were provided for the audience, but many of the listeners laid these aside in order to concentrate all attention on the beautiful and moving scenes before them. The acting of Miss Louise Swift, who played the part of Antigone, deserves especial mention for the depth of pathos and woe it portrayed. She rendered her lines with accuracy and feeling. The spirited play of the Guard and the powerful scene between Eurydice and the Messenger, as well as the sustained effort of the difficult rôle of Creon, won the admiration of the entire audience.

Professor Paul Shorey, of the University of Chicago, delivered the Phi Beta Kappa address on "The Power of Enthusiasm in Literature and Education."

Wisconsin

The Latin League of Wisconsin Colleges is a corporation formed by the Latin departments of the colleges of Beloit, Carroll, Lawrence, Milton, Milwaukee-Downer, and Ripon. They held their fifth annual contest recently at Madison, Wisconsin. There were seventeen candidates. The contest consists of an examination in two sessions. The morning session is devoted to the sight translation of Latin prose and poetry; the afternoon, to the writing of Latin.

The test this year was set by the Latin department of the University of Iowa. Professor Frederick H. Potter, chairman of the examining committee, announces that they were unanimous as to the ranking of the best five manuscripts submitted—the number honored by the League each year.

Miss Mildred Silver, of Lawrence College, took first place, winning the gold medal and the Louis G. Kirchner Memorial Prize of \$250.

Miss Mathilda Mathisen, of Ripon College, took second place and received the silver medal.

Miss Jessica North, of Lawrence College, was third in rank and gained the bronze medal.

"First Honorable Mention" was awarded to Miss Ruth Bradish, of Lawrence; "Second Honorable Mention," to Ripon.

Lawrence College won the Annis Wilson Trophy Cup for the coming year, since she had the strongest team in the contest.